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Remarks

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Farmer '953. Claims 2, 5-7 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Farmer in view of Lee, and claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Farmer in view of Wu. Also, claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Farmer in view of Lee, in view of Wu, and further in view of Delio.

It is noted that claim 1 has been amended to further recite the body and shoulder structure of the hosel. The claim is also further amended to include the structure set forth in claims 4 and 5.

The invention is directed to a custom putter, formed of individual and separate components of specific structure, to include the shaft, the hosel and the head. The stability between the putter head and the hosel is increased by providing an enlarged base for the hosel which includes flaring out shoulder 36 forming an enlarged contact area between the floor of recess 24 and the hosel. The outer extremity of the shoulder terminates in vertical sides 38, which engage walls 26 of recess 24 when the hosel is in position, further stabilizing and strengthening the connection between the hosel and the putter head.

The patent to Farmer is directed to a putter formed of individual components to include a head, a hosel and a shaft. The head 20 includes a recess 38 which receives the tip of the hosel leg 58 which inserts into the lower end of the shaft.

The patent to Lee is directed to a putter formed of individual components to include a shaft 72, hosel 71 and head 8. The head includes, generally rectangular, mounting hole 323 and super imposed rectangular hole 421. The lower end 711 of

hosel 71 is mounted in hole 323 while the shaped end of the hosel is mounted in hole 42. No mention is made of the outer surfaces of section 71 engaging vertical walls of hole 421. No mention is made as to the height of these walls and no mention is made of providing an improved connection between the hosel and putter head.

Wu is also directed to a multi-component putter including a head 4, hosel or neck 6 and a shaft 12. The head includes a receptacle 41 for receiving the insertion rod 60. Wu discloses in column 3, lines 15-17, that a heavier material may be used in neck 6 than head 4.

Claim 1, as now amended, is believed to clearly define over the structure of each of the above discussed patents individually or taken in combination for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a custom putter comprising a putter head formed of a first material with a bore formed in its top. A polygonal shaped recess having vertical walls is formed about the bore. The claim further calls for a hosel formed of a second material having a foot portion, including an outwardly flared polygonal shaped shoulder with vertical sides.

No patent relied on teaches this structure. Farmer does not teach the claimed, flared hosel structure, the claimed receptacle structure nor the different materials between the hosel and the head. The patent to Wu does not teach the flared hosel structure nor the hosel receptacle structure. The patent to Lee does not teach the flared hosel structure nor the different materials forming the head and the hosel.

The claim further calls for the hosel to include a receptacle and securing an end of said shaft in said receptacle. No patent of the rejections presents this structure.

Finally, the claim calls for securing the projection within the bore with said outwardly flared shoulder fitted into the recess with its vertical sides in engagement with the vertical walls uniting the hosel with the putter head in a secure non-rotating manner and securing said first end of said shaft in said receptacle.

No reference of the rejection taken alone or in combination teaches the claimed limitations for a putter structure as set forth above.

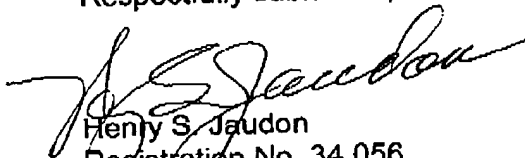
Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 16 all depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the reasons set forth.

Claim 16 further defines over the references by calling for the recess walls and the shoulder sides to be about 2mm in height. Lee does not discuss the dimensions of hole 421.

An earnest effort has been made to draft the claims to clearly define over the references of the rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner find the claims to be allowable and pass the case to issue in the due course of PTO business.

A telephone interview is requested should the Examiner feel such could further the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry S. Jaudon
Registration No. 34,056
McNair Law Firm, P.A.
P.O. Box 10827
Greenville, SC 29603-0827
Telephone: (864) 232-4261
Agent for the Applicant

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